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(Drafting Office and Officer)

Approved in S/S
by Mr. Thompson
6/9/67

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

Telephone

10027

DATE: June 8, 1967
10:15 a.m.
11:00 a.m.

SUBJECT: USS Liberty

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Yuri N. Tcherniakov, Soviet Chargé d'Affaires a.i.
Mr. Foy D. Kohler, Deputy Under Secretary

JUN 4 1967

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Mr. Kohler informed the Chargé that he had an urgent message for the Soviet Government. An American ship, the USS Liberty, was torpedoed a few hours ago off Port Said. We are not sure of the exact location where the incident took place. It is an auxilliary ship. We are sending eight aircraft from the Carrier Saratoga to investigate. We wanted the Soviet Government to know that this was the purpose and the only purpose of those aircraft approaching in that direction. The Chargé said he assumed these would be military aircraft since they came from the Saratoga, and he repeated his understanding that their purpose was solely to investigate.

Mr. Kohler called the Chargé again at 11:00 a.m. to inform him that we have just received the information that it was the Israelis who attacked the vessel. He emphasized, however, that this did not change the import of the message he had given the Charge earlier to the effect that our planes are going to the scene of the incident in connection with the vessel and not for any other purpose.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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